

MIDDLE ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVE

*Newsletter of the
National Network of Libraries of Medicine*

*Middle Atlantic Region
New York • New Jersey • Pennsylvania • Delaware*

The New York Academy of Medicine • 1216 Fifth Avenue • New York, NY 10029

Volume 9 • Number 2

March - April 1999

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LOCATORplus: WEB ACCESS TO CATLINE, SERLINE, AVLINE

NLM is preparing to provide public access to its new Integrated Library System, "NLMLOCATORplus," on Monday, March 29. LOCATORplus, which replaces CATLINE, SERLINE, AVLINE, and Locator will be available from the NLM Home page at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov>.

A web tutorial on how to use LOCATORplus will soon be announced in the electronic NLM Technical Bulletin. In addition, Reference and Customer Service staff have prepared a number of FAQs regarding LOCATORplus that will be available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/services/faq.html> on March 29.

Some wonderful new features will be available via LOCATORplus:

*One can view current receipts of serials and monographs (effective with 1999 receipts).

*Books, audiovisuals and journals can be searched together or separately.

*Searches can be limited to the history of medicine collection or reference collections.

*Hotlinks to online journals will be available from many records.

*One can search on such field specific areas as indexing status or conference name.

*Direct access to other resources will be available through LOCATORplus including NLM databases, MEDLINEplus, Images from the History of Medicine, TOXNET, HSTAT, and other medical library catalogs.

NLM is excited to be able to provide, in one integrated product, so much information directly to its customers. There are more parts to the total NLM system reinvention efforts and more work to be done, but the ILS/OPAC functions are sound and ready to be shared.

Because reinvention is not complete, DOCLINE will continue to point to the old SERLINE, CATLINE and AVLINE databases until Fall 1999 when a brand new DOCLINE arrives. This is not a problem for borrowing journals, because serial titles will be added to both LOCATORplus and SERLINE, but is a problem for ordering monographs and audiovisuals. Since CATLINE and AVLINE are no longer being updated, new records for monographs and audiovisuals will appear only in LOCATORplus. These records will contain NLM UIs which will not be recognized by DOCLINE. ILL requests for these new items will require the user to type the bibliographic information and call number into DOCLINE in order to initiate the loan.

Questions, comments and suggestions regarding this launch can be sent to: custserv@nlm.nih.gov

GETTING STARTED IN BIOINFORMATICS

By Kris Markovich, Education Coordinator

Information technology has moved us ahead dramatically in biomedical research, particularly in the area of genetics. Bioinformatics is the discipline responsible for the complex job of organizing DNA sequence and structural data. With large-scale endeavors like the Human Genome Project, bioinformatics has grown as an academic and industrial enterprise. Just as basic biological science has always had an impact on clinical medicine, discoveries from bioinformatics will affect our therapeutic and preventive health care options.

The growth of bioinformatics is reflected in the literature — a PubMed search on bioinformatics shows more than 440 articles since 1993. Librarians serving molecular biologists and pharmaceutical researchers may already have significant roles in bioinformatics. As genetic information becomes more important to clinicians and researchers, librarians will need increasing familiarity with genetic and molecular biology resources.

Molecular libraries -- collections of genetic sequences constructed by laboratories in a certain manner -- may seem very different than our traditional or even digital libraries. Our information management principles, however, are still important. Meetings such as the March 30 technology conference at the University of Pennsylvania, "Understanding Genetics Through Information Technology," will help librarians connect with others in this growing field. A report of the conference activities will be in the next issue.

- Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG of the Medical Library Association
<http://medicine.wustl.edu/~molbio/index.html>

A helpful introductory site containing instructions on subscribing to the SIG listserv and links to selected online resources, including tutorials, glossaries and reading lists.

- The National Center for Biotechnology Information (National Library of Medicine)
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

OMIM: Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man is just one of the many resources available from NCBI. The main page links to the Center's products (such as GenBank, PubMed, and Blast) and includes documentation on the various systems. Issues of the NCBI Newsletter are also online.

- The National Human Genome Research Institute
<http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/>

Information from the National Institutes of Health about the background and goals of the Human Genome Project is available here. The site also contains a glossary of terms, an "In the News" area and specific sections geared towards ethics and policy issues.

DOCLINE UPDATE

By Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator

On the cusp of the millennium....

...it is time to check your DOCLINE Routing Tables. If they are working for you, there is no need to change them simply for change's sake, but if you have not reviewed them in the past 3-5 years (and they really should be looked at once a year), it may be time to do some housecleaning. Up-to-date routing tables ensure that your requests are routed as quickly as possible. If you cannot locate your routing table, give us a call and your current table will be sent to you (fax, email, regular mail). Follow the directions for revising routing tables at <http://www.nnlm.nlm.nih.gov/mar/docline/instructions.html>.

...we need your input. A number of people have called wanting to know why <institution name> was still on their routing table "when everyone in the region knows the

library closed a number of years back.” Others have called wanting to know why an institution is listed by one name on the routing table “even though everyone in the consortium knows it’s now referred to as <another name>.” We in the RML, however, may not know what you in the consortium know...unless you tell us. So please, please, in addition to notifying your consortium, call us or send us an email when a library is closing or merging with another, or when a hospital becomes a medical center and/or changes its name. Closed, merged, inactive, and/or unresponsive libraries left “dangling” on routing tables can cause delays in service delivery, unhappy patrons, and complaints about how “DOCLINE doesn’t work...”

...have you considered using DOCLINE’s Start-Stop Routing to control ILL costs? Rather than prefixing your requests to send them to specific libraries, let DOCLINE do the work. Update your current routing table so libraries that are consortium members or libraries with reciprocal borrowing agreements are all clustered in a single cell.

...if you have been prefixing to control ILL costs, consider grouping all free loan libraries in one cell; low-cost lenders or consortium members in another cell; and use the remaining cells for the more expensive lenders. When you want to limit a request to a specific grouping just enter the correct start and stop routing table cells at the prompt.

...for more information on Start-Stop Routing, consult NLM’s *DOCLINE Manual*:
Chapter 3-Borrow at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/cas/docline/doctut3.html>

...you have probably heard that DOCLINE will be migrating to a web-based interface as NLM’s legacy mainframe is retired. The new web-based DOCLINE will debut in the early fall. We are planning to offer DOCLINE classes on an as-needed basis in conjunction with its inauguration.

...any questions or comments, contact Joanne Jahr, Network Programs Coordinator, at
(212) 822-7352 or jjahr@nyam.org.

TAG-TEAMING PUBMED AND IGM WITH YOUR WEB BROWSER AND OPERATING SYSTEM

By Andrew Hamilton, Online Analyst

There are many features of PubMed and Internet Grateful Med (IGM) that rely on functions found within the WWW browser or operating system in which they are used. Let’s

look at a few features found outside of PubMed and IGM that are quite useful when used within NLM’s WWW-based MEDLINE search interfaces. Please Note: Macintosh users should use the “command” key instead of the “control” key in the following examples.

1) Printing

There are no explicit “print” commands in either PubMed or IGM. Printing is a function of the WWW browser being used to access PubMed/IGM. From the browser, you can use either the **Print** icon from the browser button bar, or select **Print** from the **File** menu. You can also use the operating system print command by pressing ctrl-P to print the active window (This feature can be used to print the contents of the Details Box in PubMed). The browser will print from PubMed/IGM the same way it prints from other WWW pages – What You See Is What You Get. For example, if you have citations 1-20 from a total of 115 displayed on the current WWW page in the brief format, invoking the print command will print just those 20 citations in the brief format. To print all 115 records in one of the larger formats requires that the user change both the number of documents displayed per page as well as the display format. Netscape users have the option, if there is any question about what will actually be printed, to use **Print Preview** from the **File** menu to see what would actually be sent to the printer.

2) Finding and Highlighting

Neither PubMed nor IGM have specific features for highlighting search terms or phrases as they occur within MEDLINE records. However, virtually all up-to-date WWW browsers have the capacity to find and successively highlight a specific string of characters found within a Web page. Web-based MEDLINE searchers can take advantage of this “Find” feature (ctrl-F or the **Find** option under the **Edit** menu) to enter and locate strings of characters within MEDLINE records. “Find” functions just like “Print” does in that it will not go from the brief citation format into a complete record and find words/phrases that are not actually displayed on the current page.

3) Multi-Tasking

The operating systems found on today’s computers allow users to have multiple applications running at the same time. Email, word processor, spreadsheet and WWW browser applications can all be open and running at the same time. Multiple sessions of a single application can also be used in this environment. In the PubMed/IGM setting, a user can start with one browser window and open another window using the **New Window** option on the **File** menu (or by pressing ctrl-N). The user can then navigate within the second window to a page such as the MeSH browser.

4) **Editing**

Many of us are acquainted with the common text editing features of Cut (ctrl-X), Copy (ctrl-C), and Paste (ctrl-V) seen in numerous software applications. A PubMed/IGM user can employ these functions to transfer text information between windows and applications.

5) **Viewing**

Having a problem with the type on PubMed and IGM pages? Do you wish you could change the font or make it larger? You can. Some WWW pages have document-specific fonts, but in PubMed and IGM, the font and point size for displayed text is determined by the preference settings of your WWW Browser. Change how your browser displays text, and you will change how text is displayed in PubMed and IGM.

The bottom line is that if your operating system or WWW browser gives you the capability to do something -- you can do it within PubMed and IGM. Start thinking beyond the realm of the specific commands available within PubMed/IGM and look to the commands and capacities found within your browser and your operating system to open up the true power and potential of PubMed and IGM.

IOMEGA STORAGE DRIVES AND THE CLICK OF DEATH

By Robert De Angelo, Technical Programs Manager

If you are using an Iomega Zip or Jaz drive and are hearing a series of clicking noises while having problems attempting to write to or read from disks, your drive may be the latest victim of the dreaded "Click of Death" (COD). This problem, heralded by an audible series of irregular clicking noises, can lead to the irreversible loss of data on an affected disk.

A properly functioning Iomega drive should not produce any type of audible clicking while attempting to access data from a disk. The only noises that you should hear, other than the normal whirl of the disk spinning, is the noise made when you insert or eject the disk from the drive itself. In cases of drives affected with COD, the Zip or Jaz drive starts to emit an audible series of clicking sounds, when the cartridge is first inserted or when attempting to read or write data to or from an inserted disk. The clicking sounds are being made by the drive's heads as they are re-inserted and withdrawn from the disk and should not be heard during normal use on a healthy drive or data disk. Iomega claims that this issue affects fewer than half of 1 percent of all Jaz and Zip users, but with over 22 million units combined

having been sold, that still amounts to a large number of problems.

What causes the Click of Death problem?

Iomega Jaz and Zip drives can cause the COD by incorrectly writing to their removable data disks. This action can cause damage to the user's data, the cartridge's low-level factory formatting, the drive head's positioning servo information, and the proprietary "Z-tracks" which are used internally to manage and maintain disk data integrity.

The clicking sound results from the heads of the drive being retracted from the disk into the drive only to be immediately reinserted into the disk. This is the normal procedure employed by the drive when it encounters a situation in which it has trouble locating, reading, or writing any of the data on the disk. This removal and reinsertion process recalibrates the head positioning mechanism, eliminates electrostatic charge build-up on the drive's heads, and scrubs the heads to remove excess oxide deposits that may build up.

The audible clicking sound, in itself, is not the problem. It is only an audible indication that the drive is having difficulty accessing data on the disk. If you insert a disk into a drive and hear this clicking noise and then try inserting the same disk into another drive you may again hear the clicking. This suggests that damage has been done to the disk, probably by the first defective drive, and that the disk is now unreadable even by a normally functioning drive. If this is the case, the normal, undamaged drive will also exhibit the same clicking noise when the damaged disk is inserted. This does not mean that the second drive is damaged.

There are many incidents that have been linked with causing the COD in Jaz and Zip drives. Some include: bad external power supplies, loose power connectors, media damage from excessive wear and tear, mistreatment of drive, excessive magnetic oxide build-up on the drives heads, and a large array of electrical and mechanical problems ranging from rough handling of drives to defective initial manufacturing.

Is the Click of Death contagious?

There have been few reported cases of this problem being contagious. Usually, the source of the problem is a defective drive, which for some reason can no longer write to correctly or access the data on disks. Whatever the reason for the problem, the drive begins to mis-write data to its cartridges in a way that it and other drives will not be able to read at a later point. Since the clicking noise and difficulty seem to be coming from the drive, the user's first

response is usually to take out the disk and try to access the contents using another drive. Since the disk has already been damaged by the first defective drive, the second drive will also be unable to access the data. The second drive may then begin to make the clicking noise as well! This can lead to the mistaken impression that the damaged disk carried the COD from the first drive and has now infected the second drive. In most cases, this is not true. What this probably means is that the second drive can't read the damaged disk and the clicking is the normal repeated attempts of the drive to access the disk's data content. The COD has not been spread from the first to the second drive; the only thing the two drives have in common is the damaged disk that neither can successfully access. The fault lies in the first drive, but the disk can no longer be accessed by any drive and the data is most likely lost.

There have been limited reports of this condition being passed from one drive to another, especially in the case of Zip drives. Zip drives use thin, flexible mylar-based magnetic disks. In some rare instances, when a Zip drive's heads are being loaded into a disk, they get snagged upon the outer edge of the mylar disk. At this point, either one or both of the drive's read/write heads get displaced from their proper mounting and are left hanging by their connection wires. As a result, the disk (which is still spinning in the drive) is torn and damaged significantly. Since the heads aren't properly accessing the disk, the drive attempts to reinsert the heads into the disk. It is at this point that the drive starts the click...click...click sound and the user receives an error message. If the user then takes this mangled disk to another drive, in an attempt to access the disk's content, it will destroy the head mountings on the second drive as well, rendering this drive as useless as the first!

If you hear a clicking noise, it is recommended that you inspect the surface of the mylar disk as closely as possible before inserting the potentially damaged disk into another drive. While this is not easy to do, you can inspect the outer edges of the mylar disk by sliding open the protective metal shutter and slowly rotating the metal hub of the disk with your fingers. Make sure to rotate the disk at least 360 degrees to ensure that you have inspected the entire surface. Since you can only see the edge of the disk, it may be difficult to see any potential damage. The safest thing to do is not use a disk that you suspect has been damaged.

Can the problem be corrected?

The Click of Death is a hardware (physical) problem, and cannot be corrected with any type of software. It is indicative of a defective storage drive and the only cure is replacement of the drive. Iomega normally warrants their

products to be free from defects for a period of one year from the date of purchase. In the instance of COD, which can occur at any time during or after the initial warranty period, Iomega has extended their warranty policy to cover these instances and has agreed to replace COD drives even after expiration of the original warranty period.

If you experience a COD problem with your Iomega storage drive, call IOMEGA Customer Support at 1-888-4IOMEGA and tell them about the problem. They may be a little hesitant to replace the drive if it is out of warranty, but their General Manager of the Zip Aftermarket Business, David Hellier (hellier@iomega.com) appeared on television stating that IOMEGA would replace any such drives, even if the warranty has expired.

Iomega offers a utility diagnostics software that tests the integrity of the Zip heads and Zip media. If you are uncertain about the reliability of your Zip drive or disks, running the following diagnostics could tell you if you have a problem. Use a blank formatted disk while running these tests.

How to use IOMEGA ZIP Diagnostics with Windows® 95

1. Open "My Computer" or Windows Explorer.
2. Right-mouse-click on the Zip drive icon in "My Computer" or Windows Explorer.
3. Choose Properties from the drive-shortcut menu.
4. Click on the Diagnostics tab.
5. Click on "Diagnose Now..." button to start the Diagnostic function test.

If you have lost valuable data to a damaged disk, you may wish to try a data recovery tool on the damaged disk. You may have some success with this approach and there are various packages and companies that specialize in this type of recovery.

For more information on the COD consult the following sources:

<http://www.iomega.com/support/documents/2135.html>

http://www2.pcworld.com/current_issue/article/0,1212,9378,00.html

<http://www.news.com/News/Item/0,4,19342,00.html?st.cn.nws.rl.ne>

<http://disc.server.com/Indices/9584.html>

NEW RML POSITION ANNOUNCED

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (NN/LM MAR) is pleased to announce the creation of the new position of Consumer Health Information Librarian within the Regional Medical Library. In anticipation of the expansion of National Library of Medicine (NLM) initiatives with the public library and the consumer health communities, NLM has funded a new staff position in each of the eight RMLs, effective May 1, 1999.

Position: Consumer Health Information Coordinator
NN/LM, Middle Atlantic Region

Available: May 1, 1999

Responsibilities:

This position is responsible for developing a consumer health program within the Middle Atlantic Region (comprised of the states of NY, NJ, PA and DE) under the direction of the NN/LM MAR. This includes training librarians to provide consumer health information services and promoting NLM's consumer health programs. The Coordinator is responsible for setting program goals and objectives and working with public libraries and health science libraries. The Coordinator also works with other MAR staff to train librarians and health professionals on PubMed, Internet Grateful Med, other Internet resources and new NLM systems; presents and exhibits at professional librarians' and health professionals' meetings; provides referrals and information about NLM services and products to librarians, consumers and health professionals. This position reports to the NN/LM MAR Associate Director.

Qualifications:

Required: MLS from an ALA accredited or equivalent program; three to five years professional experience in a public or health sciences library; knowledge of NLM databases and products. Some travel required; must have valid driver's license, able to travel with computer equipment, responsible for set-up. Flexibility, excellent interpersonal, organizational, written and oral communications skills. Highly desirable: teaching/training experience; experience with consumer health print and electronic information sources; experience with microcomputers and developing web resources.

Salary: Minimum \$42,000, reflecting qualifications and experience, with excellent fringe benefits.

Send letter of application and resume to Mary Mylenki, Acting Director, NN/LM Middle Atlantic Region, The New York Academy of Medicine, 1216 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029. (Fax 212-534-7042)

The New York Academy of Medicine is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1847 to enhance the health of the public. The Library maintains approximately 700,000 volumes, including 49,000 rare books, and 2,000 serial subscriptions. Current acquisitions cover all areas of biomedicine, but emphasize public health, medical education, health policy, the societal aspects of medicine and the history of medicine. The Library is the headquarters of the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine as well as a general member of the Research Libraries Group. The New York Academy of Medicine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

ONLINE MeSH BROWSER ANNOUNCED

A new vocabulary look-up aid is now available for use with MeSH (Medical Subject Headings). It is designed to help quickly locate descriptors of possible interest and to show the hierarchy in which descriptors of interest appear. Virtually complete MeSH records are available, including scope notes, annotations, entry vocabulary, history notes, allowable qualifiers, etc. The browser does not link directly to any MEDLINE or other database retrieval system and, thus is not a substitute for the Internet Grateful Med or PubMed systems. The link for the MeSH Browser is on the MeSH Homepage <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/>.

The Browser was created to provide an easy lookup for those primarily interested in the MeSH vocabulary itself. In the past, questions had come from the information community asking for a way to scan or browse MeSH. There was voiced a need for access to MeSH as a controlled vocabulary, or as an endpoint and not as a preliminary look-up before MEDLINE searching. It was found that some organizations use MeSH in ways not originally expected such as for grant application file organization and other information activities. Their needs were different from those of the MEDLINE database user. In response, a web-based browser was created to allow flexible access to the vocabulary.

The MeSH Browser points to the newest version of MeSH. It will also find new Supplementary Concepts as these are added and updated quarterly. The initial screen of the MeSH Browser displays the date of the latest update, so the currency of the vocabulary data being browsed is always known.

The MeSH Browser may be used to find descriptors, qualifiers, or Supplementary Concepts of interest and see these in relationship to other concepts. The browser is part of the MeSH WebPages. It finds descriptors of interest without assuming knowledge of the often-complex vocabulary structure and rules.

Comments regarding the MeSH Browser or suggestions for other ways to enhance the usefulness of the MeSH vocabulary can be sent to meshsugg@nlm.nih.gov.

THE LEGEND OF LIBRARY OPERATIONS, LOIS ANN COLAIANNI, PUTS HER CAREER ON THE SHELF

NLM Associate Director Retires After Nearly 18 Distinguished Years

Lois Ann Colaianni, Associate Director for Library Operations since 1984, retired in December 1998. At the September meeting of the NLM Board of Regents, NLM Director Dr. Donald A.B. Lindberg presented the NLM Director's Award to Mrs. Colaianni "for exceptional leadership and innovative contributions to the Library's programs and services during her highly successful tenure as Associate Director for Library Operations, National Library of Medicine." On the same occasion the Board passed by acclamation a resolution of appreciation acknowledging "...on behalf of the U.S. medical and health communities a debt of gratitude for seventeen years of outstanding service to the National Library of Medicine and its users."

Mrs. Colaianni came to NLM in January 1981 as Deputy Associate Director for Library Operations after serving as the director of libraries for Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She became acting associate director in 1982 and was named Associate Director two years later. Library Operations, the oldest and largest of NLM's components, is responsible for building and preserving the NLM collection; developing the Medical Subject Headings; indexing and cataloging biomedical literature; disseminating NLM's authoritative bibliographic information online and in machine-readable and printed products; providing reference assistance, customer service, and document delivery; maintaining an active History of Medicine program; managing NLM's health services research information services; and directing the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

During her tenure at NLM, Mrs. Colaianni strengthened

basic services and improved the flow of medical information to the user community, while also improving the working environment for NLM staff. She led programs to expand NLM's preservation program, establish an NIH-chartered committee to advise NLM on the selection of literature to be indexed, improve the currency and coverage of Index Medicus and MEDLINE, increase international MEDLARS accessibility, encourage end-user searching, implement DOCLINE throughout the U.S. and Canada, improve outreach to health professionals through the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, re-engineer customer services, and expand the NLM associate program. Most recently she initiated the development of MEDLINEplus, NLM's consumer health information WebPages.

Mrs. Colaianni's contributions to biomedical librarianship have been recognized with the highest professional awards in her field. In 1995 the Medical Library Association (MLA) presented her with the Marcia C. Noyes Award, which recognizes an individual whose career has resulted in lasting, prominent contributions to health sciences librarianship. In 1979-80, she served as president of MLA. Other honors conferred on her include appointment as a Fellow, the Janet Doe Lectureship, the MLA President's Award, the NIH Director's Award, the NIH Merit Award and the UCLA Graduate School of Library and Information Science's first Distinguished Alumnus award.

In recognition of her career-long interest in international cooperation among medical libraries, Mrs. Colaianni was named winner of the 1995 Award of Honour of the European Association for Health Information and Libraries (EAHIL) — the first time this award was presented to a non-European. The same year she served as chair of the International Organizing Committee of the 7th International Congress on Medical Librarianship held in Washington. In 1996 she was named an honorary fellow of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

An expanded version of this article and the full text of the resolution can be found on the NLM Web site: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/news>.

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***MIDDLE ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVE** is supported under
NLM Contract NO1 - LM - 6 - 3521 and is published bimonthly.*